Construction of Rail Lines in Maharashtra

4628. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for construction of new rail lines made by the Government of Maharashtra since 1991, indicating the estimated cost thereof; and

(b) which ones have been accepted and which ones rejected, deferred or kept pending with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The details are given as under :—

Name of Project	Approximate cost (Rs. in Crores)	Position
1 2	3	4
1. Wardha Yavatmal Pusad Nanded (182 kms.)	250	Could not be considered owing to constraint of resources.
2. Ahmednagar Beed Parli Vaijnath (250 kms.)	353	Work included in 1995-96 Budget. Actual construction will be taken up after necessary approval have been obtained.
3. Manmad Malegaon Dhule Nardana (132 kms.)	300	Construction of Manmad dhule via Malegaon new line cannot be considered at present,due to constraint of resources. However, reconnaissance survey for construction of new line from Dhule to Nardana (37 kms.) is in progress. Further action will depend upon the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.
4. Amravati Narkhed (138 kms.)	120.90	Work is alresdy in progress. Land acquisition work is going on. Actual construction will be taken up once land is available.
5. Khamgaon Jalna (155 kms.)	228	The survey of the line was updated in 1994 which revealed a negative rate of return for the project. However, in view of the persistent demands from the MPs of the area, Zonal Railway has been instructed to review the traffic projections, quantum of future traffic anticipated and rate of return etc. of the suggested line, in consultation with the District Collectors of Buldana and Jalna and Local Chambers of Commerce, etc. Further consideration of the project would be possible, once the results of the review become available.

1	2	3	4
6.	Pandharpur Lonand (145 kms.)	300	This line cannot be considered at present owing to constraint of resources. However, after gauge conversion of Miraj-Latur section, work for which is on hand, Pandharpur which is on the alignment would be connected to BG. Intending passengers from Pandharpur wanting to go to Lonand can come to Miraj and then conveniently reach Lonand, which is on the existing Pune Miraj section.
7.	Kolhapur Ratnagiri (115 kms.)	300	
8.	Solapur Beed Aurangabad Chalisgaon (300 kms.)	600	Cannot be considered at present due to constraint of resources.
9.	Pune Nasik (190 kms.)	300	

Free passes to railway servants

4620. SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway servants, after five years' service, are entitled to the privilege of free passes numbering 3 sets to non-gazetted and 6 sets to the gazetted, in a calendar year for self, family and dependents;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the facility of free rail travel passes is curtailed in respect of those physically handicapped railway servants who need an escort due to permanent/partial disablity of upper and/or lower extremities;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken for elimination of the said discriminatory treatment being meted out only to the physically handicapped railway servants and their families?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Physically handicapped Railway employees are eligible for the same scale of privilege passes as other railway employees. Only when physically handicapped employees ask for provision of the facility of an outsider (who is otherwise not permisssible to be included in the privilege pass) as escort, the issue of passes is regulated as under:

(i) Non-gazetted employees who are otherwise eligible for one or three second class passes based on length of Railway service can be granted one set of First Class pass with an escort in the same class in a year.

(ii) Other non-gazetted employees who are entitled to 3 sets of First Class passes may avail two sets of First Class passes in a year with an escort in the same